

**All Gardens
Great & Small**
by
York Co.
Horticultural Agent
Tom Becker



'Wabbit' News

MILLPORT (Potter Co.) — Rabbit sales bring in thousands of dollars for kids each year. It's a growing business for 4-H'ers and FFA'ers according to Debbie Kibbe, a Potter County rabbit leader.

At the Potter County Livestock Sale held in Millport recently, Charlie Kibbe of Harrison Valley took top honors after years of working with New Zealand Whites. Top bidder Larry Coole of Coudersport bid \$27 per pound. Helena Chemical paid \$15 per pound for the reserve.

Charlie showed the grand champion and the reserve meat pen. His rabbits also had the highest rate of gain. Judging for the meat pens require that the each rabbit must weight in at least four pounds with three rabbits per pen 69 days or less in age and uniform color. The meat pens are also judged for meat value the same as other animals.

Charlie is a member of the Famous Wabbit 4-H Club and the FFA Headwaters Chapter of Northern Potter High School. He also shows dairy cattle and market steers.



Larry Coole, right, pays Charlie Kibbe \$27 per pound for his grand champion rabbits at the Potter County Livestock Sale.



Charlie Kibbe shows the reserve champion rabbits that Helena Chemical paid \$15 per pound.

Fertilize Your Lawn This Fall

Dollar for dollar, fertilizing your lawn does more to improve your lawn's quality than any other single maintenance practice. Late fall fertilization in November especially around Thanksgiving, when the lawn stops growing; and before the soil freezes is an excellent time.

Why fertilize in late fall? Fall is the time of year when cool-season turfgrasses recover from summer stress-related conditions, such as drought, heat, and disease. The cooler temperatures and moist conditions are conducive to good turf growth.

Another reported effect of late fertilization is an increase in rooting.

To fertilize in the fall use moderate amounts of nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium. Rates of 1/2 to 1 pound of soluble nitrogen per 1,000 square feet are recommended over higher rates (assuming a late summer application was made) to avoid winter injury, excessive growth in spring and leaching or runoff. Or, for Kentucky bluegrass, perennial ryegrass and fine fescue lawns, use 1 1/2 to 2 pounds of a slow release nitrogen fertilizer per 1000 square feet.

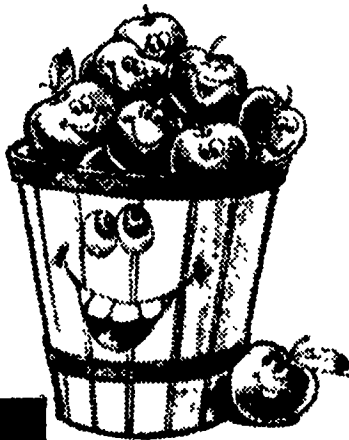
Remember to use a turf-grade

fertilizer. These grades have a high percentage of nitrogen (N) and lesser amounts of phosphorus (P) and potassium (K). The early grass fertilizers had an N-P-K ratio of 10-6-4 and were packaged in 50 pound bags. This provided 5 pounds of nitrogen per bag and the recommended coverage was 5,000 square feet (or 1 pound of nitrogen per 1,000 square feet).

A recent study at the University of Illinois showed that when nitrogen was applied at moderate rates in late fall—1 pound of N/1000 square feet—both urea and its slow release counterpart, sulfur-coated urea provided a better early spring color response than Milorganite, an organic alternative.

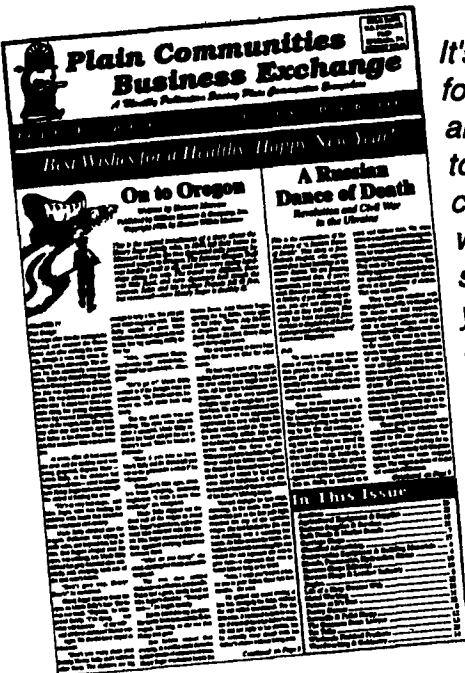
However, when Milorganite or sulfur-coated urea was applied in late fall at a higher rate (2 pounds of nitrogen/1000 square feet), results as far as spring greenup were similar to those obtained from applying urea at a lower rate (1 pound of N/1000 square feet in late fall and 1/2 pound of N/square feet in early spring).

Slow or controlled-release nitrogen sources are better than soluble sources on sandy soils because of reduced potential for leaching. Nitrogen fertilizer should never be applied to frozen soil due to the increased chance of nitrogen runoff.



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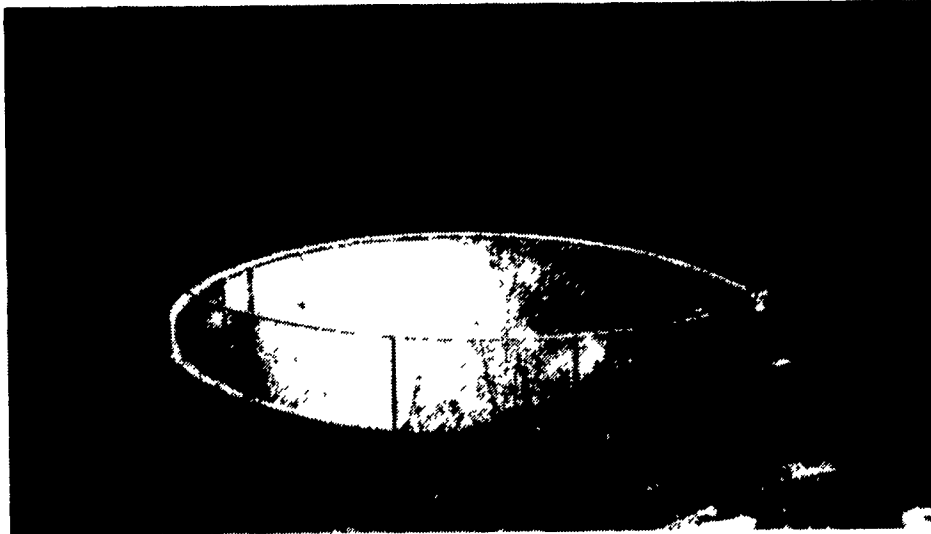
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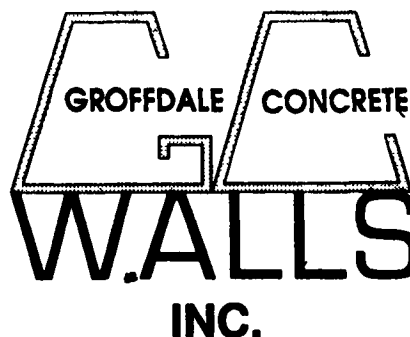
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